

to the floor of the House to acknowledge a valiant citizen of our community. All of us have been giving our praise and our commitment to the valiant troops who are now representing us, and we wish them well, we wish them a safe return, we wish for them the resources that they need to finish the job and to return to their families. But in our own communities we have valiant individuals who offer their lives so that we might be safe.

Today in Houston, Texas we laid to rest Charles Clark, Officer Charles Clark, an individual who was selfless in his commitment to our community, a member of the Houston Police Department who lost his life tragically in a brutal robbery that also saw the loss of Alfreda Jones, the mother of two children.

Officer Clark was born and raised in the community which he served: South Park, Texas. Married for 24 years, with a lovely wife by the name of Hilda, and he was almost about to see 20 years of service with the Houston Police department. He was known as the consummate police officer. He loved his job. We are told that he wanted to serve in the South Park community, where he did not live, because he had been born and raised there. The tragedy of his death is that he was rushing to the scene to help this young mother, a young mother who was working to support her children at a cash-checking place, when three or more brutal individuals who could find nothing in their life to do but to kill two innocent human beings on that day.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the question: Can we do better as Americans?

I believe this valiant soul should be laid to rest with our respect and admiration, Mr. Speaker. So I come to the floor today to pay tribute to Officer Charles Clark, to tell him that may he rest in peace and may he be considered forever and ever in the annals of the history of the Houston Police Department, our dear friend. I thank him for his service. May he rest with the angels.

HELPING FELLOW AMERICANS

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn to another subject, and that is a cry that has been amongst us for a long time, and that is helping fellow Americans. Just recently we provided a bailout for our airlines. I am gratified that today we enthusiastically, although I wish it had been unanimous, voted to instruct the conferees to assist the airline employees. These are our neighbors, hardworking neighbors who have been laid off because of the tragedy of 9/11 and the war. I hope that the conferees will not ignore helping fellow Americans by providing them with the 26 weeks of extended pay. These are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, some of them single parents who are supporting their children, some of them going to school and, frankly, they are suffering. We can bail out the airlines, we can cause them to pay off some of their

debt, but that does not deal with the human failure or the human need, and that is those who are not working because of where we find ourselves.

So to the appropriators who may be listening to the sound of our voices: We have been trying to do this since 9/11, and it has gotten worse. Let us do something that is gratifying in helping our fellow Americans.

THE AFTERMATH OF WAR

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me simply close by saying that as we wish well for our troops, we have something to deal with: the aftermath of war, Mr. Speaker. I intend to engage in a vigorous discussion so that we as Americans can pull together, so that the aftermath of this war can be one of reconciliation, working with our world allies.

I will be dropping legislation that deals with the putting back together of this Nation, but also putting back together the world feelings, relationships. I hope that we will work with NATO and the United Nations in a working group, if you will, scenario where we work together with the United States involved and all of those who are with us or against us, because, Mr. Speaker, that is the right thing to do. We must ensure that we reignite the war against terrorism where all of us were working together. We must re-insure that we work on the Mideast peace process, giving humanitarian aid, rebuilding families, helping schools and hospitals being built, as well as recognizing the needs in this Nation. We cannot do it unless we do it together.

I will be looking forward to dropping that legislation and having my colleagues go forward and not go backwards.

Mr. Speaker, also, we will be looking to give a briefing or to present a briefing with several of the caucuses in this Congress to deal with the aftermath of war, the plight of the children. We have not looked to the damage and the danger of children, not only of those in Iraq, but the children of our soldiers. What has been the damage? What can we do to assist or to help their lives be better?

So I hope this Congress will join together in a bipartisan manner, Mr. Speaker, to address the questions of the aftermath of war. Peace still is a possibility, that we may live in peace in this world.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1036, PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-64) on the resolution (H. Res. 181) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1036) to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages re-

sulting from the misuse of their products by others, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HONORING STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, democracy is the cornerstone of our government. True democracy allows room for dissent, discussion, and demonstration.

□ 1845

Last week, students from around the country arrived in our Nation's capital to demonstrate in support of affirmative action in higher education. They actively participated in a peaceful way in our democracy. And I am sure that the founders of this Nation must have been as proud of them as I am of the students who participated.

Students marched, sang songs, prayed, and urged the Supreme Court to allow schools like the University of Michigan to continue the practice of allowing diversity in higher education. The students realize that in spite of the progress made over the last 40 years, minorities, women and people with disabilities, still face major barriers in education, business, and employment. They also realize that the prerequisite for change is struggle, and that without struggle there is indeed no progress.

Many people dismiss students because they are generally perceived as not actively engaged in the political process. In addition, others suggest that they are unwilling to sacrifice and do the things necessary for group liberation. The enlightened students I encountered at the Supreme Court represented America at its best. They represented America and its great diversity.

Their message was clear, strong, and compelling. It was a message that affirmative action is a powerful, proven, and effective tool for removing the remnants of prejudice and bias. It was a message that affirmative action capitalizes on the strength of our diversity and opens the doors for opportunities. I am proud of the students who sacrificed their sleep, their classroom work, to brave the cold weather and proclaim that affirmative action is relevant and needed in higher education. They realized that education is the great equalizer. It is the ladder to success.

The thousands of students who demonstrated came by train, car, bus and many on foot. The impressive gathering of college and high school students was reminiscent of some of the activities done to achieve fairness and equalities throughout the 1960's. Of course, the challenge for all of us now is to keep the momentum and the pressure on.